Short Circuits

TARC Newsletter

March, 2005

Titusville Amateur Radio Club
T. A. R. C
Titusville, Florida

Club Officers

President Bud Hughes, K4CWG 269-2796 k4cwg@cfl.rr.com	**Vice President** Jose` Ramos, KC4VIO 267-5892 kc4vio@yahoo.com	**Secretary-Treasurer** Becky Lee, KF4HTB 267-9375 lees@titusvillearc.org	PO Box 73 Titusville, FL 32781-0073
Board Member Pike Abell, W4EPU 269-4208 pikeatal@digital.net	**Board Member** John Renninger, KE4ZPA 267-9431 ke4zpa@gnc.net	**Board Member** Mic Woltman, KI4CFA 632-4601 mjwoltman@mindspring.com	**Board Member** Bob Farrington, W4YBI 633-5664 bobandlinda3@juno.com
146.91 Repeater Trustee Les Griner, K4SJC 267-1565	**146.97 Repeater Trustee** Warren Murray, W4CEL pager - 638-5476	**444.15 Repeater Trustee** Mike Hensley, W4LOV 639-1553	**147.775 Repeater Trustee** Ken Denman, KD4HNW 269-5711

Next Meeting Tuesday March 22nd at 7:30 PM
Tutusville Public Library, 2121 South Hopkins Avenue

The President's Page

The Titusville Amateur Radio Club wishes to recognize and welcome our new members,

1. **Mickey Ramos KD4JAU** (Jose` and Carole's Son) and his bride
2. **Teresa Ramos KD4JYE** who were absentee members for a while but happily have returned
3. **Bill Gibbons ex W9KBV** now **W4ITA** who is from Ft. Wayne, Indiana, but now resides in Clermont
4. **Jim Harding N3OZZ** of Linthicum Heights, MD, who upgraded to General while visiting our area. Congratulations Jim.
5. **John Porter WB3JBK** upgraded to Extra. Good going John!
6. Before you know **John's bride Pat KA3AAG** will be joining him in the Extra Class
7. **Jim Renfro KI4IUK** and his bride live in Springfield, VA but they are wintering in the Great Outdoors. He's working to regain his old W5CIP call from his youth in Texas.

We are very pleased to have these fellow hams join our club. Say hello when you hear them on the repeater. We're looking forward to their taking part in various club activities as their schedules permit.

We had the pleasure of having Joe and Bert Barnardi N1PAW and N1OGE visit us from their home in Auburn, MA. Joe and Bert are long time members and club supporters. We wish the two of you the very best.

At a recent Thursday "eating meeting" our own Jose` KC4VIO was presented by Pat A3AGG a badge which says "kiss me I'm Irish." Jose` just like the good soldier who follows orders stepped right up and collected a kiss for Pat. Jose`, old pal, you just wait until Pat finds out you may not be Irish. Worse yet, you just wait until Carole's new camera gives up the picture she took.

More President's Corner

TARC has been invited to participate in the **"2005 ALL AMERICAN PICNIC AND RETURN TO FLIGHT RALLY"**. This will take place April 9, 2005 beginning at 9:00AM until 4:00PM. Picnic lunch cost will be $5.00.

In order for you to gain access to KARS Park you must have an entry badge.

I will need all club members who will assist to contact me and let me know if you can be at the park either (1) All Day, (2) Morning Shift or (3) Afternoon Shift. The club will set up a minimum of one high frequency trans-receiver and one 2-meter unit.

For our use we will be furnished a 10x20 foot tent, 3 tables and 10 chairs.

Also on April 9th, Stephanie K4MVO will be operating a station at Fox Lake in support of the Kiwanis Club special event. We are looking forward to establishing contact between Kars Park and Fox Lake.

Thanks to Mic KI4CFA progress is being made to get the Hog Valley repeater up and going.

Two our members have been admitted to Jess Parrish Hospital. Les K4SJC and Pike W4EPU. If possible please go by and pay them a visit. Also, our good friend Lou Gencorelli N2CTQ is at home and would love to hear from you at 385-2987.

Club meets 3/27/2005 at 7:00PM. Hope to meet you there. Bring a friend! 73's Bud K4CWG

The Vice Squad By Jose` Ramos KC4VIO TARC Vice President

Hope y'all enjoyed W4GIT, Art's, presentation during our last meeting.

Are you now ready for more words of wisdom? What happens when you push the mike key on your 2 meter rig? You are correct; the repeater is now ready for your transmission. And then what? What is the magic that gets your message out to the intended party? You will find out at our next meeting March 22, 2005. Brace yourself for another outstanding mystery guest speaker and his presentation "The nuts and bolts of a repeater". Do not miss this one, you will be pleased. KC4VIO, José

Abell's Anecdotes By Pike Abell W4EPU

THEN AND NOW: It was in the late 20s and 30's. We lived on a farm in Arkansas five miles from town. We had no electricity, running water, or any of those personal convenient things we now take so for granted.
One thing we did have though, was a telephone. The line connecting to it was a single #12 wire strung all the way from town. The return path was earth ground. In order for the phone to work, there had to be a good ground connection. For that we used a solid 8 ft. copper rod. Better yet, a
connection to a deep well pump pipe. In very dry weather it was often necessary to pour a bucket of water around the ground rod to make a good connection.

All of the above is not to mention that it was a party line. Between our house and town there were five or six other parties connected to the same line. Each party was identified by a different ring sequence. Ours was two long and one short ring.

Being a party line as it was, not unlike our two meter repeaters, anyone could listen to any other private conversation. In general, just about everyone on the party line respected the privacy of other parties. Of course, there was Mrs. Simmons. After the Wednesday night prayer meetings, she often spread the word about information she could have only obtained from listening to the party line. Knowing that, my mother would sometimes close her phone conversation with, " Mrs. Simmons, you can hang up now, we are finished.".

The brief comparison above, of the antiquated telephone party line system to our modern day two meter repeater communication system, reminds us that some things never change that much. Sometimes the privacy problem now is even more so. On the telephone party line only the few parties connected to the line could hear others talk. On the repeaters, everyone within radio range can listen if he or she so desires. Sometimes it is very difficult to resist the temptation to jump in and join an interesting ongoing chat. However, unless it is an emergency, or other compelling

Abells' Anecdotes Con't
reasons, it is best to wait until both parties signoff and clear, then call.

On the other hand, if someone is engaged in a long, drawn out and seeming endless discussion on the repeater, it is a good idea to occasionally break, identify, and determine if anyone has a compelling need to use the frequency.

It is best that I stop now as this is beginning to seem like a lesson in protocol. Nonetheless, I will keep reminding myself to go do the right thing.
73es88 Pike

Minutes of the February Meeting
The Titusville Amateur Radio Club held its regular meeting at the North Brevard Public Library on February 26th. President Bud Hughes opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence for all Silent Keys. 44 attendees were recognized including five visiting hams.
Vice President Jose Ramos introduced the very interesting program "One Watt Contacts" by Art Wood W2GIT. Jose also announced that he is meeting with the Titusville Police Department to implement a program to involve amateurs in police activities such as Amber Alerts. He handed out information sheets concerning 911 calls made through the repeater autopatch.
Following a delicious break at the buffet table, the formal club meeting was called to order. President Bud announced that in addition to the "Return to Flight Rally" at KARS Park on Merritt Island on Saturday April 9th, the club has been asked by the Titusville Kiwanis to participate in a special event they are planning at Fox Lake on the same date. Stephanie Phillips K4MVO volunteered to head up the Fox Lake event saying the Kiwanis were strong supporters of amateur radio.
President Bud also reminded the members the Field Day is coming on the last weekend in June and that he has asked the city to allow the use of the well field off Barna. Bud said, however, that the clubs participation would be cancelled if not enough volunteers come forward to pledge to help set up and tear down the Field Day site.
Pike Abell W4EPU announced that silent key widow Joan Hoag KC4SYD had donated $50.00 to the club in appreciation for the sale of her husband's equipment.
Joe Meyers K4GPF won the 50/50 drawing. Two other club members won a SWR meter and a DX book donated by W2GIT. The meeting adjournes at 8:35 PM. For Becky Lee KF4HTB, Club Secretary

TREASURERS REPORT

Beginning balance 1/1/05	**$2894.35**
Deposits in 2005	**435.30**
Total Income	**$4329.65**
YTD Expenditures	**699.55**
Balance as at 3/7/05	**$3630.10**

It's not Just Two Meters When You Need Help

Back in the 60's Becky and I lived in upper South Carolina. We decided to take a vacation down south. At that time, single sideband was just beginning to surface. I had an Elmac AM rig in the car and as we motored down I did some hamming.

We got down to Floridaland and since we were landlocked in upper South Carolina, I decided to take A1A all the way down. Things went OK for many miles. I enjoyed the ocean view and such.

At New Smyrna Beach I took a side road and got stuck in the sand. Not accustomed to driving in sand, I made matters worse by trying to get out. What to do? No houses around that I could see - no people. Mosquitos galore.

Back in the car. Try the radio - call, "CQ Mayday!" Suddenly an answer. A local ham who took my info and called a tow truck. The tow driver got me out and on firm ground. I don't remember the ham's name, but I won't forget the feeling when ham radio rescued us.

K4EOS Clyde

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

RENEWALS
KC2ENO ART SMITH
N2JY JUDY SMITH
W4ITA BILL GIBBONS
N9TN BILL BORGSTON
KC9CTH KIM FLAGSTAD
KF4AOW W. S. DAMPIER
KE4WJV TERRY DAMPIER
KF4UN DAVID POST
KG4RFT BUD DAILY
K4RVR MIKE STALLINGS
KG4YFP KIM LUCKS
KG4KVO ED WIRTH
KC4TE GENE MANN

NEW MEMBERS
AF3LD GARY COMER
KD4JAU MICKEY RAMOS
N3OZZ JAMES HARDING
WB3JBK JOHN PORTER
KA3AAG PAT PORTER
KI4IUK JIM RENFRO

Secret Message to Mosquito Net Members!

Mosquito Net Anniversary Party

Would you believe that the Mosquito Net is turning 14 years old? As the saying goes "Time flies when you are on the air". Stephanie, K4MVO, is the current net control. To celebrate the occasion, she is inviting those net members that have checked-in with her during one of the net sessions to a "Pot Luck Dinner" at her home at 1:00 p.m., Saturday March 26, 2005. Bring your favorite dish so that we can all share in this special event. Stephanie is supplying tea, coffee, soft drinks and utensils; the rest is up to you. This promises to be a humdinger of a party since her birthday also happens to fall on the same week. The address is on the club roster or call 146.91 for talk in instructions. Please RSVP at 264-2492 or 267-5892.

José, KC4VIO, Stinger #2